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Fawehinmi Assumes Office As New DV-C Tuesday

A new Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic matters, Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi, would assume office Tuesday. He is expected to take over from Professor Igbo Joe, whose two term tenure finally elapsed on Saturday, March 26, 2016. The appointment of Professor Fawehinmi was conveyed in a letter dated March 7, 2016 and signed by the Registrar and Secretary to the Governing Council of the University, Mrs. Dorcas Otu. *reports Othok Samuel*

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VALEDICTORY LECTURE

Prof Benjamin Ekeanu to deliver the 6th Valedictory Lecture to mark his formal disengagement from the University this Thursday
Details next week
--Editor

130th Inaugural

Akani Seeks More Advocacy For Nigerian Children

By Humphrey Oya

At a time when Nigeria is witnessing cases of child abuse, trafficking and forced early marriage, Professor Nwadiuto Akani of the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health in Faculty of Clinical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, has called for advocacy to meet all children-related needs within the context of the family and community.

Delivering the 130th Inaugural Lecture entitled, *The Advocate: For Richer, for Poorer; in Sickness and in Health, Preserving the Heritage*, Professor Akani, noted that "there is need to identify factors that try to destroy our heritage, identify the factors at the levels at which they exert their influence, identify the team players at those levels and work with them in order to break the persistent cycle of injury, disease, and death among children. This is talking about advocacy."

Akani, who is also Director of Institute of Maternal and Child Health in the University, defined advocacy as "a

strategy to influence policymakers when they make laws and regulations, distribute resources and make other decisions that affect people; a strategy to reduce poverty and is appropriate when you want to influence policies that are the source of poverty and

discrimination.

"For the child healthcare givers and paediatricians in particular, advocacy means making commitment to support the child and family beyond the issue related to treatment of their individual medical conditions," she noted, adding that advocacy aims at creating policies where

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FG Appoints Briggs Lokoja Varsity Pro-Chancellor

By Oluokun Samuel

Former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Emeritus Professor Nimi Briggs, is now the new Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council of Federal University, Lokoja in Kogi State. Emeritus Professor Briggs was appointed along with 11 other Chairmen of Governing Councils, who recently took office.

In an electronic mail dated March 17, 2016, conveying his appointment to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Late, which was obtained by *EnPover Weekly*, Emeritus Professor Briggs disclosed that he was inaugurated at the Federal Capital Territory along with his colleagues on March 1, 2016.

The new Pro-Chancellor of Federal University Lokoja was the 5th Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, who served in acting capacity between 1995 and 1996 and again in 1999, before being formally appointed as substantive Vice-Chancellor from 2000 to 2005.

As Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Briggs was credited with massive infrastructural development of the University and deepening the academic culture. He also carefully navigated the fractious relations that dogged the University at the turn of the millennium and was instrumental in charting a new direction for the University through the Strategic Plan Document that detailed developmental pathway that has been



followed by his successors.

His Chairmanship of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Federal Universities ran concurrently with that of the Association of Vice-

Chancellors of Nigerian Universities (AVCNU) between 2004 and 2005.

He brought his insightful leadership prowess to the fore in the many positions he held in and outside the university system. Some of the important positions Emeritus Professor Briggs held with verifiable results included Chairmanship of the Rivers State Economic Advisory Council (2007 to 2008), Chairman of the Boards of the National Hospital, Abuja and Management of the University of Brain Teaching Hospital from 2009 to 2011, Chairman, Rivers State Independent Electoral Commission from 2007 to 2011 and Chairman, Board of Directors of the Sports Institute of the sub-continental High Performance Centre domiciled at the University of Port Harcourt.

The eminent Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology was Head of Department and Provost of the College of Health Sciences, before assuming the exalted position of Vice-Chancellor. A proud alumnus of Nyemisi Grammar School, Abonoma, Baptist High School, Port Harcourt and the famous Government College, Umuahia, the new Pro-Chancellor obtained his Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree from the University of Lagos in 1968 and holds the Fellowship of the prestigious Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, England, amongst others. The Federal Government conferred the award of *Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON)* in recognition of his contributions to national development.

STUDENT WORLD

Longest Ikpewe's research on *Modelling on the Physico-Chemical and Population Dynamics of Chrysichthys Nigrodigitatus from the new Calabar/Bonny River* is unarguably a novel idea that is expected to change the way scholars predict population dynamics in fish species. The new model seeks to provide valuable information on the dynamics of *C. Nigrodigitatus* from the new Calabar/Bonny River, including its physical and chemical parameters from which he hopes to develop his model. "The specific objectives are to estimate the length-weight relationship, total natural condition factor and fishing mortality, exploitation rate and ratio, the vonbertalanffy growth parameters, the physico-chemical parameters of the new Calabar/Bonny River," he explained to our Correspondent,

I Want To Develop A Model For Predicting Population Dynamics ~Ikpewe

Longest Ikpewe is a Doctoral Candidate in the Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, Faculty of Science. His specialization is Hydrobiology and Fisheries. He spoke to Correspondent, ETHEL TIMB-JOHNSON on his research effort which seeks to develop a mathematical model for the prediction of population dynamics parameters.

lamenting that the sustainable exploitation of fishery resources has culminated in researchers working to enhance the potential yield of water bodies in terms of fish production and eventual management of such resources. "Population dynamics involve quantitative change in a given population, such as a group of individuals belonging to the same species, as a result of different processes. The model can be used to describe the function of population dynamics as follows:



and their exploitations and to device changes that would make it possible to manage them better," he further explained, adding that to device a model, a considerable amount of recording data was required to obtain reliable results. "There are increased anthropogenic activities along the river channel and over the years, several factors have been identified as causes of fish mortality which include fish predation, parasitism, age, environmental stress and the fishing activity itself, hence, the need to develop reliable data on fisheries for future comparative studies and virtual population analysis. Ikpewe, who disclosed that the findings from his research would be useful in formulating effective management and conservation policies for the fishing industry, noted that a mathematical model would be developed for the prediction of some biological parameters of *C.nigrodigitatus*, as well as the physico-chemical parameters of the New Calabar/Bonny River. "A better description of the fishery status of the *C. Nigrodigitatus* from New Calabar/ Bonny River would also be achieved through my research work," he stated.

STOP PRESS

ICTC Computer Training

Staff and Students of the University interested in enhancing their skills on the use of Basic Android for Beginners are advised to avail themselves of free training opportunity offered by the Google Developers and JAWA User Groups in Port Harcourt.

A statement dated March 23, 2016 and signed by the Head of Training, Mrs. Elizabeth Okay-Wali on behalf of the Information and Communication Technology Centre (ICTC), disclosed that the training which will take place between April 1 and 2, 2016, will cover the balance of Saturday training sessions in April and May 7.

"The first two days will be used to set up participants' laptops, and an intensive training on introduction to JAVA. Participants would include Students and Lecturers," Mrs. Okay-Wali disclosed. Similarly, the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) through the Digital Bridge Institute (DBI), Abuja, in conjunction with the ICTC, has filed April 4 to 8 for training of both academic and non-teaching staff on basic computer appreciation, including office productivity tools, use of the Internet and Intranet. The training which is expected to be organized under *The Advanced Digital Application Programme for Tertiary Institutions (ADAPT) Training for JWA*, will start from 9:00am to 4:00pm daily.

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Fawehinmi Assumes Office Tuesday

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"I am pleased to inform you that following your election by Senate at its 415th Meeting held on Monday, 22nd February, 2016 and subsequent confirmation by the Governing Council at its 155th Meeting held on Thursday, March 3, 2016, you are hereby appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) of the University of Port Harcourt," the appointment letter read in part, further disclosing that the two-year appointment took effect from Sunday, March 27, 2016.

"As Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), you will assist the Vice-Chancellor in the day-to-day performance of his functions. You will also perform such other functions as the Vice-Chancellor or the Governing Council may, from time to time, assign to you," the letter specified.

Fawehinmi, who obtained his first degree in Human Anatomy in 1989 and the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree in 1992, both from the University of Port Harcourt, got his Master of Science degree in Medical Anthropology from the University of London in 2003 and a Doctor of Medicine (M.D) from the University of Port Harcourt in 2008.

A Professor of Clinical Anatomy and Biomedical Anthropology, Fawehinmi, who was employed by the University on June 1, 1995 as Lecturer II in the Department of Human Anatomy, rose through the ranks to become Professor in 2010.

The new Deputy Vice-Chancellor has had a rewarding public service and academic career with an admirable wealth of experience in institutional administration, part of which he gathered as Head of the Department of Human

Anatomy from 2005 to 2007 and Dean of the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences in the College of Health Sciences between 2012 and 2014. While on Sabbatical Leave at the Niger Delta University (NDU), the new Deputy Vice-Chancellor also served as the Head of Department of Anatomy from 2010 to 2012. He was a Visiting Researcher and Honorary Research Fellow at the Department of Anatomy and Developmental Biology, University College, London in 2006 under the MacArthur Foundation Teachers Upgrade Programme.

Fawehinmi, who is a Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Anatomical Society of Nigeria, respectively, had also participated in about 50 Conferences and Workshops in and outside the country and presented over 16 Technical Papers. He has published 55 journal articles, contributed Chapters in books and Monographs, amongst other academic achievements.

The new Deputy Vice-Chancellor, who presented the 111th Inaugural Lecture of the University entitled, *Different Tailors for the Same People: The Same Surgeon for Different People*, belongs to several professional bodies such as the Anatomical Society of Great Britain and Ireland, American Anthropological Association and the Nigerian Medical Association (NBA).

Fawehinmi, who is also Executive Secretary, Board of Trustees of the Sickle Cell Research and Awareness Group (SCRAG), had supervised a number of candidates for the Doctor of Philosophy degree and over 10 students for the Master's degree programme.

The former Editor-in-Chief of the Anatomical

Society of Nigeria and External Examiner to the Undergraduate and Postgraduate Anatomy programmes of 12 universities is the recipient of several academic and service awards.

Born on September 29, 1969, Fawehinmi, who hails from Ondo State, is married to Hadezcat Omotayo and the marriage is blessed with children.



Prof Fawehinmi, New D-V-C (Academic)

UniPort Scholars Rank High in Google Scholar Rating

By Obinwa Nwodin



Prof Julius Okajie, NUC Scribe

The response by scholars and researchers to the call by the authorities of the University of Port Harcourt has begun to yield fruit as scores of researchers from the Institution have been identified amongst high impact scholars whose publications were frequently cited and referenced by other scholars on the Internet Google Scholar Ranking.

This cheering development obtained from the database of the Spanish-based Webometric website by our Correspondent, indicated that the latest ranking which is the third in the series, was collected during the first week of October, 2015. The list consisted of scholars and researchers from various Faculties across the University, whose quality research works were frequently cited and referenced by other scholars in and outside the University.

Those listed included Professor Ndubuisi Eke, Dr. Sunny Abarikwa, Dr. Peter Kpohovie, Dr. Akpan Udem Rot, Dr. Udensi Ekes Udensi and Professor Israel Owate. Others are Dr. Olufermi Adesope, Dr. Bolaji Babatunde, Dr. Adedapo Aiyelaja, Professor Ndowa, E.S. Lale, Dr. Yusuf Momoh, Professor Iyegbu

Simiatayai, Dr. Ethelbert Kari, Dr. Hycent Nwankwida and Dr. Prince Mison.

These high-flying scholars were identified among the top 800 researchers listed in the edition, based on the number of times their articles and other research materials were cited and referenced by other scholars.

In his reaction to the cheering news, one of the listed scholars, Dr. Olufermi Adesope of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, told our Correspondent that the platform which enhanced visibility of scholars and their institutions was a serious way of cross-fertilizing ideas in a knowledge-driven society.

He noted that the current development showed that researchers in the University were working very hard and also encouraging other academics to excel. He added that the recognition would motivate younger academics to identify with Google Scholars Ranking to make themselves more visible and relevant in the global community of scholars.

On his part, Dr. Prince Mison of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management stated that it was heart-warming to be so recognized, adding that such a development was not only a pride and further motivation to work harder, but an honour to the University. He encouraged other scholars to upload their articles online to make them available to other scholars.

It would be recalled that United Kingdom-based Times Higher Education (THE) and the World Economic Forum (WEF) rated the University of Port Harcourt Number One in Nigeria and Sixth in Africa in terms of its high impact research output last year.

My Focus Is To Deepen Research ~ Prof Nwauche

By Mercy Adeniji

A new Dean has emerged to run the affairs of the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences for the next two years. He is Professor Chijioke Nwauche, a professor of Haematology. The newly-elected Dean took over from Professor Iyegbe Nwaisi, who successfully headed the Faculty for two years.

Speaking with *UniPort Weekly* in his office on Monday, March 21, 2016, Professor Nwauche disclosed that he assumed office on Thursday, February 25, 2016, restating his readiness to take the Faculty to a new level. The new Dean told our Correspondent that his major focus for the next two years was to deepen research and mentor younger academics, as well as ensure grants to support research work in the Faculty. "This is a young Faculty and each of my professors successfully impacted on the Faculty and improved on teaching, research and community service. At this point in time, there are certain basic objectives that we have promised to carry out; first, we want to ensure that the Faculty is properly situated in terms of infrastructure," he said, revealing that "where we are now is the Olufemi Building which is meant for the Faculty of Science and College of Health Sciences. We are operating from a small part of the building and out of all the old Faculties that were established at the inception of the University, it is only the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences that is still equipping." Professor Nwauche, who also holds an Executive Chair for Malaria Research and Phytomedicine (CMRAP), disclosed that "there is a Faculty building which is still under construction and we intend to liaise with Management and



Prof Nwauche

the Physical Planning Department to complete and get it furnished," he disclosed, explaining that "funding was secured for the Anatomy Building; the drawings are there but the building has not commenced. It is our intention that the building would be hopefully completed before the end of my tenure so that we can have access to more office space, laboratories and facilities for research."

The new Dean said "there is a need for a Pathology Teaching Block and we have to put the building in place before the next accreditation exercise in two years' time. We need more equipment in our laboratory and we are working on having an e-Library that would complement what is available in the Central Library."

The Staff and students welfare, Professor Nwauche stated that the second cardinal point of his leadership would centre on improving the welfare of staff, adding: "We hope to ensure that those who are due are promoted as a motivation for enhanced productivity. We also intend to enhance membership of our students to ensure that their relationship with their staff advisers is improved," he said, regretting that most of them do not make use of their staff advisers. The Professor of Haematology disclosed that part of his vision was to expand the curriculum in line with current trends in the study of Basic Medical Sciences. We have some M.Sc programmes we want to upgrade to the Ph.D status and we also plan to initiate new postgraduate programmes in Microbiology and Chemical Pathology.

"Plans are on to publish a research bulletin and seek ways and means to endow Professorial Chairs in all the programmes in the Faculty. We also have plans to set up a Faculty Research Fund (FRF) aimed at strengthening research work. We also hope to initiate a Quarterly Research Seminar and we intend to seek collaborative research with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine," he said. Professor Nwauche promised that the Faculty would continue with the Annual Memorial Lecture in honour of Professor Kenneth Diets-Kok, including the Faculty Open Day, Annual Brain Awareness Day and presentation of an Annual Report.

UniPort Students Win SPE Petroquiz In UniBen

By Ethel Tini-Johnson

The University of Port Harcourt Student Chapter of the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) finished off still competition from 28 other institutions to emerge overall winners of a recent Petroquiz organised by the Nigeria Council of SPE International. The event was part of the 14th Annual Student Technical Conference and Exhibition of the body which held from March 17 to March 19, 2016 at the University of Benin, Edo State.

The student group led by its Faculty Sponsor, Professor Adewale Dosunmu and Acting Head of the Department of Petroleum Engineering, Dr. Basileus Orji, presented the grand trophy to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nwagwu Late in his office, last Tuesday. It was the first time the University had carried away the prized award, which confers the pole position of the Institution in hydrocarbon studies.

Occupant of the Arct Adam Chair in Petroleum Engineering, Professor Dosunmu, noted that about 28 universities across the country participated in the highly competitive event. "The Petroquiz was aimed at testing the knowledge of students about the petroleum industry, both at the international and local scenes and we are happy that our students came out tops amongst their counterparts from other universities in the country," he remarked, adding that the victory would be recognised by the SPE at the global and local levels.

Commending the Faculty Sponsor, Professor Dosunmu and the team for the victory and honour done the University, a visibly delighted Vice-Chancellor lauded the effort and determination of the students which led to their resounding victory at the battle of Benin. "The sky will be your limit if you continue in this spirit. What we hear these days is about students who engage themselves all manner of anti-social behaviours; but your achievement has proved that we still have outstanding students who are prepared to get on top of



V-C, Prof. Late (4th left), flanked by President of the UniPort SPE, Oluwagun-Chidiadi, Faculty sponsor, Professor Dosunmu (left), HoD, Petroleum Engineering, Dr. Orji (3rd right) and others displaying the trophy and certificates

their game. You must continue to excel in whatever you may wish to achieve in a very competitive environment that demands the very best after your graduation from the University," he said, advising the Faculty to sustain and even surpass the heights already recorded.

In a sideline interview with *UniPort Weekly*, President of the UniPort SPE Student Chapter, Kingsley Oluwagun-Chidiadi,

who commended Professors Dosunmu and Dr. Orji for supporting and encouraging the students, attributed the victory to team effort and commitment to the higher ideals. "We were able to accomplish this feat through hard work and the knowledge imparted on us by our seasoned Lecturers, who are also highly-respected professionals in the field of Petroleum Engineering," he pointed out.

Admissions Officer Launches Novel

By Otioker Samuel



Mrs Mmocha

Admissions Officer in the School of Graduate Studies (SGS), Mrs. Helen Mmocha, has added her voice to an age-long traditional practice through her new book: *Dual Identity*. The book literally projects part of the Ikwere cultural practice that is typical of many indigenous African communities. Speaking to our Correspondent about the new book, published by *Pearl Publishers International Ltd* in Port Harcourt, Mrs. Mmocha said that the book highlighted aspects of traditional practices that affect the people.

"The book will be good for students both in the secondary school and tertiary institutions. It has a lot of local content; our cultural heritage has been eroded by the infiltration of foreign cultures, resulting in a situation where some of our cultural practices are going

extinct or on the verge of extinction. This book will help educate especially the younger generation on some of our cultural practices and values which they may not have known," she said.

Mrs. Mmocha, who is a Doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology in the Faculty of Social Sciences, expressed optimism that people from other cultural backgrounds would appreciate the book even though the setting draws heavily from the Ikwere cultural experience.

"The book basically projects the cultural, social and psychological effects of an age-long traditional practice on an African polygamous family, where a father and son suffer the same fate of having a relationship based on dual identity. The storyline is a blend of culture, melancholy, romance and humour," read the blurb.

Aluta: What Is To Come

By Williams Wodi

Believe those who are seeking the truth;
Doubt those who find it. The colour of truth is grey

ANDRE GIDE

Warning lights are blinking on the Nigerian Universities' dashboard and the red signals are blaring on all fronts. In times of grave national crises, especially the type of economic and security dislocations we are facing today as a result of the 'red card' from dwindling global oil prices, truth becomes the first casualty on the battlefield.

Dwindling statutory allocations from the centre is exerting a heavy toll on our standard of living and the evidence is everywhere. The entitlements of workers are increasingly coming under severe strains and as it stands now, Nigeria is either insolvent or outrightly bankrupt. Remember, however, that the colour of truth is grey?

The crash in global crude oil prices means that we are in lean times and should all prepare for even leaner times ahead. Today, many private and public institutions are impecunious with indigent staff on the brink of bankruptcy, while the poverty circus is widening by the day. Workers are witnessing a downward spiral in their pay which has been battered by digital inflation and can no longer the



Prof Okerengwo, ASUU Chairman

As for fasting and prayer sessions to receive relief for their monthly salaries which causes great excitement these days. Salary alerts now elicit the same reaction from children when electricity is periodically restored in our homes. Pilgrimages to enjoyment joints have drastically reduced, while many previously jolly good fellows are increasingly becoming 'born again' by fire, by force without persuasion from prayer contractors. It was once believed that Federal Government workers were immune to delayed salary payments, but we are increasingly finding out that earthquakes do not discriminate between hilltop mansions and thatch houses in remote hamlets.

Workers, especially staff in the University system should prepare for the looming cataclysmic crises that will be no respecter of all those beautifully-constructed paragraphs in the 2009 Agreement on 'earned allowances' and other 'entitlements' between the Federal Government and the Unions that regularly rally their members to the dispersed barricades. It is obvious that the Federal Government is no longer funding some emoluments, and apparently feels that universities can and should fund no less than 10 per cent of their total expenditure. The streams are gathering between government and the unions and something is bound to give soon.

Already, the University of Ibadan Branch of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) and Management are fighting Iraq and Iran over the dislocation of certain 'earned allowances' that the new Vice-Chancellor says can no longer be accommodated in the face of dwindling allocations. "Acting on the mandate of their Congresses," the Joint Action Committee (JAC) has made a four-point demand on the Management of the University of Port Harcourt on their own version of 'earned allowances'. It is no joking matter as a 14-day ultimatum has already been issued with which Management must react "positively" or...you know

what. Make no mistake about it: unions are there to defend and press home the welfare of their members. Union leaders are licensed to bang the table, punch the air, and deploy incendiary language or contrived disfigurement to impress their followers.

When the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndowa Lale, recently met with the local branch of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), the language of discourse was inextricably intemperate, caustic, insouciant, petulant and totally bereft of the kind of polish that is befitting of an academic institution. It was almost a monologue of the deaf which the Vice-Chancellor had to carefully navigate in the interest of industrial harmony on this Campus. Well, Unions are generally not famous for linguistic elegance on the table and every one understands that. With the almighty Single Account on the ground, the argument that administrators can off-increase revenue a little via Interneta Genera Revenga e (IGR) direct agent after illusive



Syder, SSANU Chairman

ra in Shakespearean drama. The issue of shortfalls in monthly salary allocations has already been explained ad nauseam at a Town Hall Meeting, including at Congregation and periodic consultative fora with the Unions. Sadly, some Union leaders appear to be far more intrepid at customized interpretation of Federal Government circulars than Managements of Universities, especially as they affect emoluments that generate so much emotion. In the looming salary and other 'entitlements' crises, it would be unreasonable to target Management as the butt of the Unions' solidarity speeches and 'aluta' war chants that are usually heralded by clenched fists at the negotiation table. The looming crises demand maturity, logic and reason that can only derive from synthesizing minds among Union leaders and their respective Congresses. Unnecessary grandstanding and populist jabs will be like punching the air with zero effect for all concerned. They must now strive hard to overcome the grand illusion of activist invincibility, as the emergent economic crises are too critical to be glossed over.



Ogbegbe, NAAT Chairman



V.C. Prof Lale

Government. Since assuming office on July 13, 2015, Professor Lale has demonstrated savvy, maturity, focus, good faith, openness and a willingness to tag along with the Unions by ransacking his administration right on the table. As a learner-leader with his head on his shoulders, the Vice-Chancellor recently set up a 12-member Personnel Audit Committee headed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Professor Anthony Ibe, to ascertain the actual workforce of the University and by ghost workers to rest after proper obsequies.

All of us; Management, Staff, Students, Unions and staidly stakeholders must make the necessary mental adjustments as a direct response to the emergent economic crisis in the land. The body language of the Federal Government has rendered continuous 'aluta rage' largely negatory. At the going rate of our economic emancipation, nobody should be surprised if government wakes up tomorrow morning and decides to call in the barber to give its workforce an unpleasant haircut—maybe, the 'ajilo' style! State Governors are already down-sizing their workforce in response to dwindling statutory allocations. All over the land, people are cutting their sizes according to available clothes. Oh yes!

The prevailing climate should goad the Unions into practising 'aluta' with utmost restraint, because nothing is cut as stone anymore. The looming *dosage/doson* is likely to cut across board, no matter the force of energy with which we punch the air at 'aluta' meetings—that is the existential truth folks! Nobody is suggesting that the Unions should lose their bounce; but what is coming is neither *Wahurs* type joke nor *April Fool* at all. We must stop living as if Nigeria is still reaping the oil-windfall of the 1970s.

There is a positive side to the looming fiscal crises though; we are a very resilient people with an inbuilt capacity to defy seasonal defeats thrown at us by serially incompetent governments. Our collective resilience is called the 'X-Factor' that enables us stay afloat like the Egyptian sphinx that defies the force of gravity. "If dem take dem oil ooo, Nigeria go survive," music greets us in this Did I punch-in d-i-d-e-o provide perqal are by the



Igwe, NASU Chairman

Cont'd from p1

there is none in existence and referring harmful/ineffectiveness.

On why advocacy was needed to draw attention to the plight of vulnerable children, Akani observed that "they have no political will, they have limited say in decisions affecting their lives and generally unable to seek redress when decisions are taken against their best interest," citing her involvement in some successful advocacy works on routine screening of new entrants into the University, Adolescent health clinics at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), child sexual abuse and female genital mutilation, amongst others.

"Children are children in whatever state we find them and they have the right to survival, development, participation and protection for optimal growth to live out their full potentials," Akani said, listing harmful traditional practices that put them at the risk of death such as Traditional Birth Attendant (TBA) practices, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), domestic violence, vulnerability to sexual exploitation through prostitution, child abuse, sexual and physical child battery. Linking child's health to social, economic and environmental factors, Akani said: "Since in our present medical model of Paediatrics, physicians are divorced from community groups and anti-poverty programmes, child care givers will have to consider a model that will effectively deal with child health problems with social consequences, and child healthcare in society. That model is the Social Paediatrics



Inaugural Lecture (6' left), flanked by V-C, Prof Lale (right), Registrar, Mrs Ducas Ono (left) and other Professors before the Lecture

Model.

Akani, who noted that: "Although Social Paediatrics operates on the principles of Community Paediatrics, it seeks to work with those living at the margin of society—the disadvantaged, the deprived, the dispossessed and the disabled," explained that "poverty or its absence has been recognised as a major determinant of child health and wellbeing," defining poverty as a situation where a person or group lacks human needs because they cannot afford them.

On her contributions to knowledge, the Inaugural Lecturer listed teaching, publications, research, capacity building/trainings, formulation of University HIV Policy, advocacy and community dialogue on harmful traditional practices, establishment of school health clinics and maternal mortality audit project, amongst other activities that have impacted positively on child

welfare.

Speaking after the Lecture, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndofia Lale, who recalled that part of the topic sounded like the declaration made to couples at weddings, thanked the Inaugural Lecturer for her advocacy role on behalf of Nigerian children. "Before now, I used to think that it was only legal practitioners that were involved in advocacy, but with this lecture, I now know that there is advocacy in medical practice too," the Vice-Chancellor said, noting that unlike other branches of medicine, where patients were able to explain their health problems to the doctor, paediatricians needed to play the role of magicians to know the problems of children.

"It is sad to note that there is cancer in children and even more worrisome is the staggering statistics churned by the Inaugural Lecturer to drive her case. Also disturbing is the high level of hysterectomies in our society," he said, adding that there appeared to be a direct relationship between economic independence and empowerment of women and an increase in divorce cases, which led to teenage pregnancy, sexually-transmitted diseases and other vices that could be attributed to poor parenting.

On Revised Academic, Direct Entry Policies

By Obinna Nwadin

At its 416th Extra-ordinary Meeting, Senate took another giant stride as it made two important decisions geared towards redefining the University of Port Harcourt in line with current realities. The two monumental decisions were the formal approval given to the Revised Academic Statements and General Policies of the University, as well as the forethought approval to commence the Direct Entry Mode of admission into the University.

As Senate members noted during the debate, the issue of Direct Entry into the University is long overdue and needed no elocution to be approved. Available records show that the University of Port Harcourt is the only Federal University that is yet to incorporate the Direct Entry Mode into its admission policies. Why this issue lingered for such a long time remains inexplicable, but the important thing is that members of Senate and the administration of Professor Ndofia Lale have taken a bold step to ensure that candidates with the relevant Advanced Level papers would henceforth seek admission through the Direct Entry Mode into the University of Port Harcourt.

This development is expected to open more opportunities for qualitative education as it is generally accepted that the A-Level offers candidates better preparation for university education. Over the years, statistics and empirical evidence have shown that candidates with Advanced Level Certificates, as well as Higher School Certificates other than the Ordinary Level Certificates, enter the University adequately prepared for sustained academic work. This has always boosted the quality of graduates produced in our educational system.

In line with the new thinking, the Senate of the University of Port Harcourt has taken a very bold step to rectify an embarrassing anomaly that was within its powers all along. It is obvious that the non-



Prof Lale, V-C

implementation of this policy created a big gap in the actualization of that aspect of the vision and mission of the founding fathers of the University. The importance of this development gives credence to the reason why Senate decided that the approval should take effect in the 2016/17 Academic Session. In fact, the policy should have taken retrospective effect, in a manner of speaking!

In the same vein, the revised academic policy of the University which takes effect from the date of approval is an important document that charts the pathway for more serious academic activities. It guides the conduct of, not only students, but also staff, particularly the academic staff in their general

conduct. The Professor Regias Ogal-led Committee incorporates a comprehensive review of the important document that reflects changes in contemporary times. The document addressed the general academic statements and policies of the University in line with present realities.

A major point of interest in the revised policy was Senate's hard stance on examination malpractice and other acts of misconduct. Anti-academic vices are becoming increasingly worrisome, particularly when viewed against the determination of the authorities to improve the quality of graduates produced by the University. Examination malpractices have become the "new normal" that if not adequately checked would make nonsense of our educational system. As the days go by, students appear to devise novel and more sophisticated methods of cheating to pass their examinations. No system can survive under an environment in which students cheat to succeed.

This revised policy tightens the noose on students who seek success without working hard for it. There is no doubt that the revised academic policy would strengthen the way and manner that academic activities are carried out in the University of Port Harcourt, as it also addresses such issues as the structure of Time-Table for classes and examinations, Teaching, Grading System, Computation of Grade Point Average, External Moderation of Degree Results, amongst other sensitive issues connected with the making of University of Port Harcourt graduates. With those developments, the University is truly manifesting its unique status of joining the league of world-class institutions that produce world-class graduates who would make great impact in a changing world. Kudos must, however, go to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lale, for driving the two giant leaps in line with his campaign manifesto for the job.

GUIDEPOST

CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

Dr. Felix Njoku, Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, ended Contract Appointment as Senior Lecturer, effective March 12, 2016.

STUDY LEAVE

Mr. Peter Amoyedo, Department of Music, Faculty of Humanities, granted a two-year Study Leave with Pay, to enable him pursue a Master's Degree programme in Music at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, effective February 29, 2016 to February 28, 2018.

Miss Cecilia Amadi, Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, resumed from Study Leave with Pay, effective February 22, 2016.

CONVERSION

Dr. David Ibadabo, Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Faculty of Clinical Sciences, converted from Adjunct Senior Lecturer to Contract Appointment, effective on assumption of duty.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Professor Kanyiye Eboku, Faculty of Law, granted Leave of Absence, effective December 18, 2015 to December 17, 2016.

STOP PRESS

Amakoromo Heads Academic Advisory Board, UPBS

Professor Ebi Amakoromo of the Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Science, has been appointed Chairman of the Academic Advisory Board, University of Port Harcourt Business School. The appointment which takes immediate effect is for two years and will terminate on March 1, 2018. Other members of the Board are: Professors Clifford Ofurum, Mike Oyeokunwa, Eneka Okereke, Chris Akani, Samuel Ejezie, Regina Ogali and Dr. Kikpaya Aaron. The Committee's Terms of Reference (ToR) includes the following: to advise on new programmes proposal and major revisions to the curriculum of existing programmes in the School. The Committee is also empowered to recommend policies concerning student selection, progression and advise Management on improvements and any other matter that may be helpful in effectively running programmes in the School.

Wordu Heads Governing Board, CDRMDS

Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Words Henco Global Ltd, Mr. Henry Wordu, has been appointed Chairman of the Governing Board of the Centre for Disaster Risk Management and Development Studies (CDRMDS). Other members of the Board are: Professors Regina Ogali, Okey Omachuku, Henry Alapiki, John Bimala, Abaji Mohammed Sami, Barister Monday Oyezawawa, Sir Okey Okah and Captain Matthew Karimam.

The Board is mandated to identify and develop strategies for the accelerated growth and development of the Centre and make it self-sustaining. The Board is also expected to cultivate partnerships with government agencies and industries for mutual benefits.

Oyegun Chairs Academic Advisory Board, COHSE

Professor Charles Oyegun of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management in the Faculty of Social Sciences has been appointed Chairman, Academic Advisory Board of the Centre for Occupational Health, Safety and Environment (COHSE). The appointment which takes immediate effect is for two years and will terminate on February 28, 2018. Other members of the Board are Dean, Faculty of Engineering; Director, Institute of Petroleum Studies; Director, COHSE; Assistant Director, COHSE; Head, Department of Civil Engineering; Head, Department of Environmental Engineering; President, Institute of Safety Professionals of Nigeria (ISPPON), and President, National Industrial Safety Council of Nigeria (NISCN). The Committee's Terms of Reference (ToR) includes the following: to advise on new programmes proposals and major revisions of the existing curriculum and programmes at the Centre. The Committee is to recommend policies concerning student selection, progression and also advise Management on other improvements and review as well as on student assessment and academic standards.

Freshers Speak On 37th Matriculation Ceremony

Out of the numerous applicants who sat for the English Tertiary Matriculation Examination (TME) and Post-English Tertiary Matriculation Examination (PETME) for the 2015/16 Academic Session, only 8,543 Candidates met the stringent requirements for admission at the 37th Matriculation Ceremony of the University. In this interview, some of the Matriculants speak in Correspondent, MERCY ADENIJI on the euphoria of being admitted into the University of Port Harcourt.

The 37th Matriculation Ceremony of the University of Port Harcourt held on Thursday, March 17, 2016, amidst merry-making by the lucky few, who were adjudged fit to be conferred with the status of *bona fide* students of Unique UniPort. Please read on:

HELEN SAMUEL (ACCOUNTING DEPT)

I am very happy despite the things did not work out the way I planned, but I still thank God for everything, especially for life, because I am alive with this



day, I give God the glory. I chose this University because I believe it has a lot to offer its students by equipping them with the right skills to face the challenges of the future. I will fully utilize this opportunity by studying hard to graduate with good grades.

EMMANUEL OGU (MECHANICAL ENGINEERING)

I feel very excited, because I wrote JAMB twice; so I know what it means to secure admission into the University. I am grateful to God for this rare opportunity that many other candidates looking for. To my friends, I wish them all the best and to those who did not make it, I urge them to just hope on for better luck next time. I am very grateful to my parent s for seeing me through Nursery School to Primary and Secondary School, and now the University.



LOVE MUNAKWE (ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT NT)

I have every reason to celebrate today, because I was first rejected by the Department I had to fill the Form to be admitted into the Department of Economics. I am glad to be among matric



today and I give God all the glory. I also thank my parents for their patience and support all through my search for admission into the University. I promise to make them proud.

TOM ABASI-OFON (CHEMICAL ENGINEERING)

I feel so elated to be admitted into this great citadel of learning and when I remember those days when we were writing JAMB over and over and going to office and writing the PUTME, then also I can only thank God for that. Most of my friends did not make it at the end. I



o recall the words of the Vice-Chancellor during the Orientation exercise, when he admonished us to take our admission seriously. He reminded us that we were lucky to be admitted out of thousands that applied to study in the University of Port Harcourt. These words made me shed tears of joy, because I understood clearly what he said. If you look at the rundown of those admitted into the Faculty of Engineering, you would notice that we are just 798, so I am lucky to be among this number, because this was the course I applied to study. I hope to do my best and come out with good grades and with perseverance, hard work and God on my side, I will achieve success.

PHYLIS OSAGIEDE (BIOCHEMISTRY DEPT)

I feel very happy because I had always dreamt of celebrating my matriculation and that dream is a reality today. I am also grateful to God for making this day come through. To my friends who were not able to make it, I urge them to stand firm and not give up. To my parents, I promise to do my best and not let them down.



CCGS Orientation

The Centre for Conflict and Gender Studies (CCGS), organized an Orientation exercise for new intakes and the launching of her Master of Science (M.Sc) degree programme in Peace and Conflict Studies on Thursday, February 18, 2016, at the Centre's temporary building, University Park. Pictures of the event as captured by our Cameraman, MITCHELL EBI-EKIYOR are shown below:



Members of the high table rise for UniPort and National Anthems



Participants rise for the anthems too



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ndawa Lale, delivering his address



Centre Director, Dr. Fidelis Allen giving a profile of the Centre



Chief Security Officer of the University, Lt. Col. Reginald Igbinu (Bda), giving security tips as part of the Orientation for the freshers



Judith Asand delivering the Keynote Address



V-C, Professor Lale in a tete-a-tete with Dr. Asani



Professor Ogali decorates Dr. Asani as Fellow of the Centre, while V-C looks on



Pioneer Directors of the defunct Centres Professors Mark Anigbo (CENTECS) and Elizabeth Oloket (PJC-WGS) giving their goodwill messages



A cross-sections of guests and students at the Orientation